



Reporting Period:
Calendar Year 2002

Profile of Preventive Care for Children in Medicaid Managed Care

The Department of Health and Family Services works closely with participating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to assure that medically necessary services are provided to Medicaid enrollees. Preventive care services for children are an important aspect of care delivery, and one that is closely monitored by the Division of Health Care Financing. Utilization of services is an important indicator of the quality of care provided to children, reflecting both the effectiveness of HMO outreach to enrollees and the availability of HMO network providers to deliver care. Health plan performance data for selected child health indicators including immunizations and lead screens can also be used to identify unmet enrollee preventive care needs.

Encounter data has made it possible to capture a more complete picture of the clinical services delivered to children and adolescents within the managed care health care delivery system. The "profile" provides a glimpse of each individual HMO's ability to provide services, and of the enrollees' ability to access needed services. To generate this profile, Medicaid Encounter Data Driven Improvement Core Measure Set (MEDDIC-MS)¹ performance measures were applied to HMO-submitted encounter data and other Division data sources including Medicaid eligibility data and fee-for-service claims data.

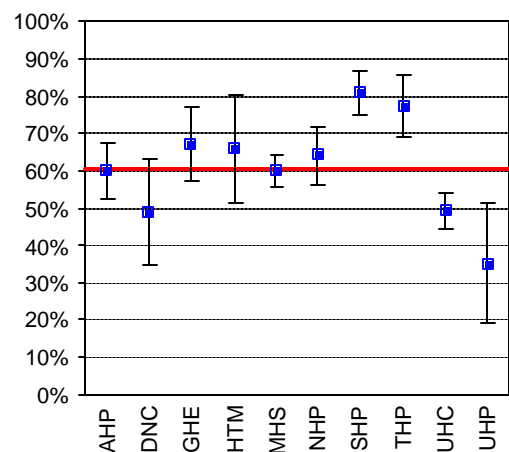
In the charts that follow, the 13 participating Medicaid HMOs are represented by a three letter abbreviation. A key containing the HMO abbreviations and names is located on page 2.

Immunizations

Immunizations are among the most cost-effective preventive care services provided to children. The Division of Health Care Financing, in cooperation with the Division of Public Health, utilizes the Wisconsin Immunization Registry to supplement Medicaid administrative data, thereby providing more complete immunization data to participating HMOs than that contained only in encounter data.

Chart 1 compares the HMO's percentage of two year olds who were fully immunized in calendar year (CY) 2002. Three HMOs had less than 30 enrollees meeting the MEDDIC-MS denominator criteria; their individual results are not displayed. The mean percentage for all HMOs is 61%. Two HMOs (SHP and THP) are statistically above the mean and two (UHC and UHP) are statistically below the mean. All other HMOs have percentages that are statistically indistinguishable from the overall mean.

Chart 1: Immunization Status of Two Year Olds (CY 2002)



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Next Steps

The results of this measure will be used to establish baseline performance rates. Performance goals will be established with input from participating HMOs. Trending will occur over time.

¹ The MEDDIC-MS measure specifications are available from the Bureau of Managed Health Care Programs in the Division of Health Care Financing.

Chart 2: One Year Olds with Lead Test (CY 2002)

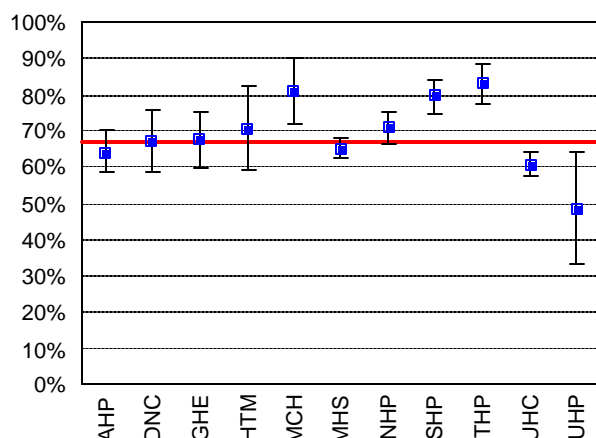
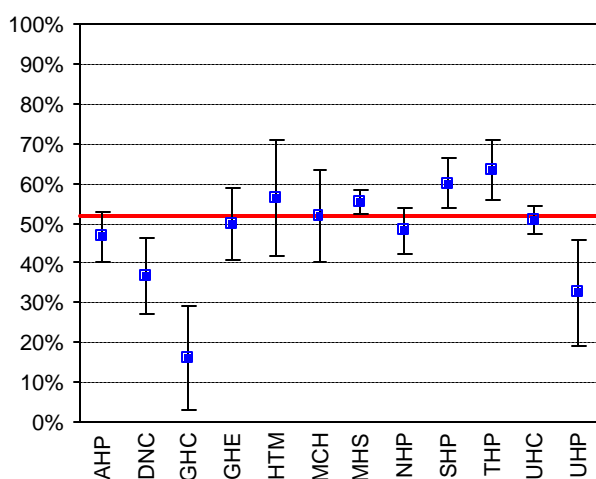


Chart 3: Two Year Olds with Lead Test (CY 2002)



Lead Testing

Efforts to reduce blood lead levels in children have succeeded over the past 15 years, due largely to a 1978 federal ban on use of lead in paint and gasoline. High levels of lead in the blood is a significant health risk for disadvantaged children². According to the National Lead Information Center, 1.7 million children have blood lead readings at or above the "level of concern" - 10 micrograms/dl.

Charts 2 and 3 compare the HMO's percentage of one and two year olds, respectively, who received a lead test in calendar year 2002. Two HMOs had less than 30 enrollees meeting the one year old MEDDIC-MS denominator criteria; their individual results are not displayed. Across all HMOs, 67% of one year olds received a lead test. Three HMOs (MCH, SHP and THP) are statistically above the all HMO mean and two (UHC and UHP) are statistically below the mean. All other HMOs have percentages that are statistically indistinguishable from the overall mean.

One HMO had less than 30 enrollees meeting the two year old MEDDIC-MS denominator criteria; their individual results are not displayed in Chart 3. Across all HMOs, 52% of two year olds received a lead test in calendar year 2002. Three HMOs (MHS, SHP and THP) are statistically above the all HMO mean and three (DNC, GHE and UHP) are statistically below the mean. All other HMOs have percentages that are statistically indistinguishable from the overall mean.

In calendar year 2002, one year olds received timely lead tests at a higher rate than two year olds.

Next Steps

The results of this measure will be used to establish baseline performance rates. Performance goals will be established with input from participating HMOs. Separate goals will be established for one year olds and two year olds. Trending will occur over time.

HMO Abbreviations and Names

AHP—Atrium Health Plan	NHP—Network Health Plan
DNC—Dean Health Plan	SHP—Security Health Plan
GHC—Group Health South Central	THP—Touchpoint Health Plan
GHE—Group Health Eau Claire	UHC—UnitedHealthcare
HTM—Health Tradition Health Plan	UHP—Unity Health Insurance
MCH—MercyCare Insurance	VHP—Valley Health Plan
MHS—Managed Health Services	

²Rogan WJ, Ware JH. Exposure to Lead in Children—How Low is Low Enough? *N Engl J Med*. 2003; 348; 16: 1515-1516.